7551 Byron Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 18, 1973

To: Committee to Investigate Assassinations

The following are facts and allegations which have not come to light, to my knowledge.

The late Clifton C. Carter, Lyndon Johnson's chief adviser on November 22, 1963, and General Marshall Carter, Deputy Director of Plans (black operations), for the Central Intelligence Agency, at that time, were brothers. Clifton Carter had set up an office for Johnson in Austin that fall, and on the 22nd was manning a communications system in the car following Johnson's. Speaking of communications systems, Marshall Carter later became head of the National Security Agency.

It is now well known that Mayor Cabell was the brother of General Charles Cabell, General Carter's predecessor as Director of Plans for the CIA. Mayor Cabell was in the motorcade in a car directly behind Cliff Carter's.

Clifton Carter remained close to Johnson, staying overnight at his house, for the next few days, and continued to meet with him in the White House when Johnson moved there during the first part of his Presidency, although he was never "actually in the White House." (This Awesome Challenge by Michael Amrine, Popular Library, 1964, Page 70)

The information that the Carters are brothers is from OSS by R. Harris Smith, University of California Press, 1972, Page 98.

In a letter to Computers and Automation Mr. Robert Smith of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations said it was the military who gave the story that Oswald was responsible for the assassination, before it could possibly have been known, and so McGeorge Bundy shouldn't be blamed for giving that information to President Johnson. That would be true except for the fact that McGeorge Bundy also had a brother, who worked for the Pentagon. William Bundy was with the Defense Department as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs in 1963. He was formerly a

career CIA employee. According to L. Fletcher Prouty, "he was used as a conduit by the CIA to get its schemes for Vietnam to and past such men as McNamara and Rusk." (The Secret Team, Prentice-Hall, 1973, Page 110)

In addition, as Director of the National Security Council, McGeorge was by law supposed to direct the CIA and and co-ordinate the State and Defense Departments. Congress passed the National Security Act on July 26, 1947.

Do you know if the Socony Mobil Research Laboratory had any connection with the Science Research Center, one of the sponsors listed on the invitation to the luncheon at the Trade Mart where President Kennedy was scheduled to speak? (XVII - Page 600)

Betty MacDonald, the girl who was later strangled in jail; Everett Glover, who hosted the party where Ruth Paine met Oswald; Volkmar Schmidt, who was the same age and had been in the Army in Germany just like Larrie Schmidt,* and who possibly was Larrie Schmidt, who wrote the black bordered ad asking questions of President Kennedy on November 22 and who apparently staged the demonstration against Stevenson; worked there; along with Ilya A. Mamantov who taught Russian there. Mr. Mamantov was called by Jack Chrichton, an independent petroleum operator, connected with Army Reserve, Intelligence, to translate the Russian of Marina Oswald at the police station on November 22. (IX - Page 106)

The Russian K. G. B. had a secret school for teaching modern methods of assassination at the Scientific Research Institute in Moscow. Of course, it's probably all a co-incidence, even though Premiere Khrushchev said that some of the people in the K. G. B. and the C. I. A. are the same.

There is testimony suggesting that Jack Ruby was looking out of a window in the Records Building from which a shot was fired the next day. Lieutenant of Police W. F. Dyson said in an affidavit that Jack Ruby was on the sixth floor of the Records Building on November 21, 1963, in assistant District Attorney Ben Ellis' office. He said, "The window in this office faces Record Street, with a view of both Elm and Main Streets...Subject [Ruby] introduced himself to Ben Ellis

Albert Jenner

* Warren Commission Lawyer asked Bernard Weissman if Larrie Schmidt and Volkmar Schmidt were brothers. Weissman said he'd never heard of Volkmar Schmidt.

"and told Mr. Ellis, 'You probably don't know me now, but you wil." (Volume XXIV of the Warren Commission Hearings, Page 160)

Assistant District Attorney William Alexander reported that Ruby was in his office in the Records Building on that date "regarding four bad checks written by one Robert Craven." (XXV - Page 145) No doubt his office had a view of Elm Street, too.
As you know, Larry Flores was arrested for behaving in a suspicious manner in the Records Building after the assassination. He said he had been trying to find a telephone. (XIX, Page 517, and XXIV, Page 208). There was another man described as Jim Braden, Oil Dealer, with a remarkably similar story about trying to find a telephone. Although it appears Mr. Braden was trapped in the Depository, rather than the Records Building, more like Army Intelligence Agent James Powell. Deputy C. L. Lewis reported he "Was in building when Pres. assassinated." (XIX, Page 527). Both Larry Flores and Jim Braden said that a woman told them there were telephones on the third floor where she worked.

Mr. Braden was staying at the Cabana Motel where Ruby had beeen the night before.

Army Intelligence agents posed as newsmen at the Chicago, 1968 Democratic Convention. Two policemen who were standing within four feet of Oswald when he was shot swore that they believed Ruby came into the basement pushing a TV news camera.

Detective R. L. Lowery testified, "Approximately three to five minutes before the prisoner was brought out, I observed a Channel 5 [NBC] Camera mounted on tripod rollers come through the doors in front of the jail office to the ramp. I observed three men pushing the camera, one on each side and one man crouched down in rear head down as if pushing the camera. As the camera came down the slope from entrance to ramp, I grabbed one of the tripods to steady the camera. As the camera men pushed the camera into the ramp they turned slightly to the right, one attendant stated 'We can't get out this way', they then pushed the camera into the crowd of newsmen on the East side of the ramp area and disappeared into the rear of the crowd. At this time I heard someone in the jail office door state, 'Here he comes'." (Lowery Exhibit dated November 24, 1963, Vol. XX, Page 535)

The following is from an FBI document dated November 25, 1963 "Lowery stated this camera was never put into operation....

"Lowery stated that following the shooting, the action of the two camera men who pushed the camera from the area was brought to the attention of Lieutenant R. E. Swain, Jr.... Lowery advised he was of the opinion Jack Ruby probably entered pertinent area under the pretext of being with the above mentioned Channel 5 television newsmen." (XX, Pages 536-537)

FBI Document of December 3 reported, "After the shooting, there was considerable confusion and he [Lowery] immediately thought of the television crew who had gone through a few minutes before and he went over in the area where he had last seen them. Detective Cutchshaw apparently had the same thought, because Cutchshaw also went over where they had been and they talked to the television crew, and both of them stated there were only two men pushing the camera. He said he, Lowery, could not be positive...., but thought there were three and Cutchshaw also thought there were three men. One of the television crew said that they didn't know anything about a third man. ...Lowery was instructed [by Lt. Baker] to get the names, addresses and phone numbers of these two television crewmen, which he did...He recalled that one...was John Alexander...He thought it strange that the television crew said there were only two when both he and Cutchshaw were under the impression that three men were pushing the camera, and he thought it possible that either Ruby or some other person could have gotten into the area with this ruse." (XX, Pages 540-541)

Detective W. J. Cutchshaw testified, "Prior to Oswald coming, a T. V. camera was pushed out of the basement lobby into the basement. There were three men pushing the camera....The third person was in the center and had on a dark suit. He was bent over low behind the camera pushing on the base. The camera was pushed down the ramp...but was not hooked up. After the shooting the camera was being pushed up the ramp by two men. The man in the dark was not one of them. I stopped the two men and asked them where the other man was that helped them push the camera out. They stated that no one was with them...." (XXIV - Page 81)

Contrary to the official story, the basement was well guarded. Morton William Newman, reporter for the "Chicago Daily News" related that "When he entered police headquarters, he was required to identify himself as a member of the press. He then proceeded to the basement of the building, and he was again required to identify himself."

Mr. Newman also related that the story going around right after the murder was that "Ruby gained entrance to the basement by helping a TV cameraman move equipment into the basement." (XXVI, Pages 341-342)

Sergeant Jerry Hill reported to the FBI on November 25, that when he heard what had happenedd "he had contacted a man by the name of Timmon (first name unknown), the sound engineer for the Channel 5 camera, who told him that the other individual assigned to the camera with him was one John Alexander and that he, Timmon, recalled no other individual assisting them in placing the camera in the location before the fatal shot. Timmon said it was very possible that someone else was present and immediately behind them. He stated that he had not had an opportunity to speak with Alexander...." (FBI Document dated November 25, 1963, XXII - Pages 920-921)

Alexander was obviously Steven L. Alexander, news cameraman, from KTAL-TV, Channel 6, Shreveport, Louisiana. The FBI interviewed him and reported, "On November 22, 1963, Alexander was on vacation at Waco, Texas, when he heard the President had been shot at Dallas, Texas. He immediately drove to Dallas, arriving about 3:30 P.m. on the same day. He stayed in Dallas until 6:10 p.m. on November 24, 1963, during which time he was working for NBC, having been hired by Mr. Donald C. Roberts, NBC of Los Angeles, California, to cover the incident." Alexander was in the basement when Oswald was shot. He said he was working in conjunction with Gene Barnes, NBC cameraman, Burbank, California. Barnes is the one who reported that David Ferry was in Dallas.

Neither Timmons nor Alexander were questioned by the Warren Commission. The only who was questioned from the television station was Jimmie Turner, the television director at WBAP-TV (NBC), in Fort Worth, Texas. In his testimony, Alexander from Shreveport completely disappeared, and became John Tankersley, a local employee of WBAP-TV. Timmons in a later affidavit changed his story to agree. Timmons said the third man who had helped was a detective, but Turner claimed the honor for himself.

In regard to the pickup stalled on Elm Street that Julia Mercer saw a man get out of and carry a guncase to the grassy knoll, Patrolman Joe Murphy said it was the property of the company working on the First National Bank Building at Elm and Akard. (Commission Document 205)

Jack Ruby called Breck Wall on November 23, 1963. Mr. Wall was at the home of Tom McKenna, whose son "was working on a construction job at the Republic National Bank." (XIV - Page 613)

Warren Leslie said, "...in any civic project the bank 'clearing house,' an organization of all Dallas banks, must approve; if it doesn't...the project is dead..." Dallas Public and Private, Grossman Publishers, New York, 1964. One also notes that George DeMohrenschildt's office was in the Republic National Bank Building, and Jack Ruby reportedly had dealings there, as did Ralph Paul.

One other place where the different factions converge is the Maple Terrace Apartments. Paul Raigorodsky, who had an office at one of the banks, said that George and Jeanne DeMohrenschildt had lived at the Maple Terrace. (XI - Page 18) In March, 1964, when asked if he knew DeMohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra, he replied in the present tense, 'Oh, yes; they live here at the Maple Terrace." (IX - Page 13)

Lewis McWillie, the gambler whom Ruby visited in Cuba also lived in the Maple Terrace Apartments. His mother Blanche McWillie "advised she would visit her son about twice a year staying about a month during each visit. She advised that her son was residing at that time in the Maple Terrace Apartments...Ruby did not live in the same apartment building but would visit with her and her son practically every day." (XXIII - Page 126)

McWillie's main operation in Dallas was a night club and gambling house called the "Top of the Hill Club". (XXII - Page 302) This is reminiscent of the "Top of the Mart" at the Trade Mart in New Orleans, where Clay Shaw was president. And in St. Louis, there is a "Top of the Knoll"! owned by a consortium from Texas. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 11, 1973)

Commission attorneys Leon Hubert and Burt Griffin wrote a memo saying among other things that Ruby could possibly have had help from the news media. Gladys Craddock who worked for the Dallas Morning News had a second job as a hostess in Ruby's nightclub for a short time before the assassination. (XXII - Page 900)

I'm so sorry that I can't come to the conference at Georgetown University, as I shall be visiting out of town on the 23rd. Thank you very much for sending me the program and hotel rates.

With best wishes,

Grace P. Vale

Grace P. Vale

cc: Mr. Hardy